



FULL MOON PADDLE

JULY 8, 2017

By Marty Strickland

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Eight lucky RMSKC paddlers enjoyed a magical evening on the July 8th Full Moon Paddle at Cherry Creek Reservoir. All the necessary ingredients were present: a beautiful full moon, clear skies, gentle breezes, warm water and the quiet of nature, as we slipped along the dark edges of the lake.

Cicadas and crickets serenaded us from shore, a few lazy fish jumped and splashed, and two curious beavers swam across our path before slapping their tails and making themselves scarce. We kept our distance from a Great Blue heron hunting near shore.

For this nature-loving paddler, Cherry Creek Reservoir never looked better. Quiet, calm, peaceful and cool, I don't think any of us missed the blazing sun or the jet skis or the need to apply sunscreen. We had the lake mostly to ourselves. A few night fishermen with their lanterns dotted the shoreline. A couple flocks of ghostly pelicans slid out of reach as we floated nearby. Sleepy ducks and geese flapped to our sides in pursuit of nighttime resting spots.

Our small flotilla moved along at a leisurely pace, with a few headlamps and lanterns turned on for extra safety's sake. But as the moon rose higher it actually provided all the illumination we needed, and most of us eventually turned out our lights to better enjoy the striking path of moonlight on the water. Our ghost-like silhouettes made silent passage through the dark, illuminated only by the full moon.

Our trip around the shores and back again probably only covered four or five miles. This was definitely a "quality over quantity" type of kayak expedition. Any participants who had fought through traffic and city heat to arrive in time for this event were soon rewarded with feelings of calm and peacefulness. In addition to the delightful silence, there were lots of sighs about just how beautiful it was out on that lake!

Upon returning to shore sometime around 10:45 or 11:00PM, we had one more surprise. Julie Pfannenstein's fresh homemade rhubarb pie and whipped cream capped off our special evening.

We hope the paddle and the pie become an annual event for RMSKC. And Sue Hughes, planner-extraordinaire, should absolutely be in charge of choosing the dates for all future Full Moon Paddles. She could not have chosen a more perfect night for this soothing adventure than the one we shared on July 8, 2017. Bravo!



Sunset from Tim's boat; he had lights inside it



Tim Shea snapping together his ORU kayak



Photos by Tim Shea



Julie, Marsha, Brian and Jud; other paddlers were Marty and Clark, Sue and new member Tim Shea